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PATENT CLAIMS

- 1. A temperature-indicating element (11) for a refrigeration device having a backing (1) and a thermochromic layer (2) applied thereto, characterized in that the thermochromic layer (2) is enclosed between the backing (1) and a transparent layer element (4).
- 2. The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the transparent layer element is designed as a casting compound (4).
- 3. The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 1, characterized in that the casting compound (4) is a plastic material that cures at room temperature.
- 4. The temperature-indicating element according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the casting compound (4) is a polyurethane.
- 5. The temperature-indicating element according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the casting compound (4) is subjected to a vacuum treatment before curing.
- 6. The temperature-indicating element according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the backing (1) is a metal plate, in particular an aluminum plate.
 - 7. The temperature-indicating element according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the

backing (1) is enclosed between the casting compound (4) and a film (6).

- 8. The temperature-indicating element according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the backing (1) is embedded in a backing element and is covered in the embedded state by the transparent casting material (4).
- 9. The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 6, characterized in that the film (6) is printed on its side facing the casting compound (4).
- 10. The temperature-indicating element according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is provided with a mark (7) which indicates a preferred orientation for mounting the element in a refrigeration device.
- 11. The temperature-indicating element according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the layer (2) is provided with an orientation mark (16) which is discernible at room temperature.
- 12. The temperature-indicating element according to Claim 6 or 7 and Claim 9, characterized in that the film (6) is provided with a complementary mark (17) that is complementary to the orientation mark (16) of the layer (2).

⁻ English Translation of PCT/EP2003/014259 based on DE 202 19 911.8, Filed 12/23/2002 -